

Fire Fighters Pension Board
12 February 2025 - 14.00 – 15.30
MS Teams
AGENDA

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| 1. | Attendance, Apologies and Declarations of Interest Introductions Chair - Glynn Luznyj | 14:00 – 14:05 Verbal |
| 2. | Minutes and Actions Arising Chair - Glynn Luznyj | 14:05 – 14:10 Papers |
| 3. | Reports WYPF Client Reports – December 2024 and January 2025 | 14:10 – 14:25 Report |
| 4. | Governance Contingent Decisions Email LGA Letter sent to Civica by NFCC Pension Dashboards | 14.25-14.35 Attached Attached |
| 5. | Review of breaches | 14.35 – 14.45 Paper |
| 6. | Review of Risk Register Risk register for comments / update | 14:45 – 15:00 Paper |
| 7. | Actions arising from FPS Bulletins Pension Bulletins 88 and 89 (attached) | 15:00 – 15:10 Reports |
| 8. | Updates WYPF Pension and Payroll Manager | 15:10 – 15:20 Verbal |
| 9. | Training and Development | 15:20 – 15:25 |
| 10. | AOB | 15:25 – 15:30 |

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Meeting notes

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| Attendees: | |
| Glynn Luznyj, (GL), Chair | Nicola Daniels, (ND) |
| David Greensmith, (DG) | James (Jim) Bywater, (JB) |
| Louise Clayton, (LC) | Helen Scargill, (HS) |
| Irina Volka-Heath, (IVH) | Lee Russell (LR) |
| Apologies: | |
| Ralph Butler, (RB) | Sue Wilkinson, (SW) |

1. Attendance, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

Meetings were recorded as a true record of the meeting. True and accurate representation of the previous meeting.

Action 62 – Potentially provide a pension update for the next SGB, based on the items discussed today, relating to Pensions decisions etc. CLOSED.

Action 63 – GL submitted this on the 15th November, two days after the pension board. Nothing has been heard back for TPR at this time. CLOSED.

Action 64 – DG explained the claim form is ready, Nicola is the contact for this and the next agreement is how this will be communicated. The guidance is available online and this needs to be put on the internal website. It would be useful for the Pension Board to understand the issues being raised following any claims received. Anticipating that this will take some time in processing.

3. Reports

Item covered in items below

4. Governance

GL explained that the service has been asked to pause on the methodology for those who opted out of the scheme and now wanted to come back in (contingent decisions). HS explained that the process needs to be publicised, members need to apply for their contingent decisions. There are deadlines for applying, this will then need an automatic contingent decision for approval, the service will need to write to these members explaining the latest standpoint of the service. GL looked at the creation of the pension dashboard, noting the deadline of the 31st October. The local issues are, the service needs to connect to the dashboard, West Yorkshire will connect for us via a provider and publicising the tight deadlines for the year end payroll, it is not looking like this will be an issue.

DG to assist ND on Comms regarding applying for contingent decisions. ACTION

Governance to be updated to the scheme manager at the next SGB ACTION

5. Review of breaches

Nothing was raised at this point.

6. Review of Risk Register

DG noted the main risk is the (THIRD RISK). The residual risk is most likely higher than the 12 that we have it at. GL noted this should go up to a 16, based on the information that has been heard today, noting the number of breaches that are taking place. This was agreed by all board members. GL highlighted the risk of incorrect pensions calculations risk, when the onus is on individuals going through to HMRC direct, there may be some new narrative that needs to be discussed on the risk score of this, as this is currently only down as a medium risk. WY noted that there are mitigations for these to be more accurate.

7. Actions arising from FPS Bulletins

GL noted two bulletins issues since the last meeting, these are very good in terms of information. GL explained that it is important for the PB to pick out any actions and ensure that these are being adhered to. ND explained that the service is on top of the actions. JB explained it is important to publicise these bulletins to ensure everyone in the service is aware of the same information.

8. Updates

West Yorkshire – HS highlighted section 12, where items are pulled from the bulletin, West Yorkshire will put some narrative for where there is an action for the administrator, so this is easier to be tied together. The valuation year 2024, the GAD wanted data from the rollback position, however this wasn't possible due to the system faults. GAD decided they would require 'stock data' by the end of December, everything was sent early January, Staffordshire's data has gone as 'stock data'. Movement data has been included for Staffordshire, so the only outstanding is active movement data. It was confirmed that all annual and quarterly reporting has been completed, 40% unauthorised tax charges have been paid. HMRC have been showing amounts due that don't correspond to the amounts paid and have been sending out to FRA's for outstanding payments, a query has been raised regarding this to ensure funds have been allocated correctly, a response is outstanding on this. Pension saving statement have two types that are required which are, Remedy PSS and West Yorkshire are confident that anybody who is getting a tax charge have had their Remedy PSS. The deadline for this work was to be done by the 31st January. This will need to be reported as another breach. GL questioned if there was a gap regarding 22-23, although the HMRC calculator does now appear to accurately calculate the correct figures. HS explained West Yorkshires view on this, each affected individual should work out exactly what has been done, I.E no change, additional tax etc through the MRC calculation process. This would then need to be printed to PDF and sent to West Yorkshire who will make the scheme pays election if that was chosen by the member. If it is just submitted, it will go via HMRC to Staffordshire, who will receive the output of what the changes are. So far only one notification has come through from HMRC, the rest have all been submitted directly to WY.

GL Commented about a the fragile confidence in the HMRC process due to the calculator being broken, HMRC issuing a statement that they will be issuing penalties for members who have not done the recalutation within the three months and then appearing to row back from it. Also there is no available calculator for agencies to support individuals who may require professional advice on the process.

ABSRSS – The systems from Civica went down for three days a week ago, and all of the drops and fixes that were in the test service went in the live, this should give WY everything they need to move forward in the process. The financial data for active wholetime members has been uploaded. So, the scheme manager should be able to exercise their discretion in order to give some additional time to sort out those Matthews cases. The inactive members will have a breach at this time against the set deadline of 31 March 2025, due to prioritising the active

members. No update received by WY on Pension dashboard. Things are changing all the time regarding this. There is still a possibility that this might change at this time.

Resource and staffing, WY is in the midst of a restructure and is going through all the relevant stages and an update on this will be provided in due course, which should include two stand alone teams that will deal with Fire only. There is currently nobody out there with Fire Pensions knowledge so recruitment at the moment is difficult, additional numbers have been put in at a lower level and some casual temp staff have been hired to tackle the bulk of work for administrative tasks.

Red cases are still an issue due to the guidance. They have now had to back to HMRC to get these issues resolved. Until the regulations are in place there is potential for risk. The Green cases will hopefully be done by the deadline,

ACTION – GL will need to report any delays on the issuing of the ABSRSS statement as a breach as a result of WY not being able to process them.

9. Training and Development

GL raised there is a local pension board shares forum, members of this board may change, so a refresh from the LGA will be needed.

10. AOB

It was questioned if business as usual is still right as down as a medium risk. This is being dealt with, but people are just not getting information as quick as they would like. It's advantageous for someone to request an estimate as soon as they can. Any internal comms that can be done would be helpful and managing expectations is important.

GL placed on thanks his contributions to the pension board for Lee. A new representation from the FBU will be picked up with Martin Starkey.

Sue Wilkinson will also not be attending a pension board and thanks was placed as well.